

Serial No. 10/590,669

Amend. In Resp. to Off. Action of Sept. 21, 2009

UTILITY PATENT

B&amp;D No. CS1246

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A frictional pivot comprising:

gravity-responsive directional means for indicating a datum direction of alignment with gravity, wherein the gravity-responsive directional means comprises a weighted pendulous arm orthogonally attached to a pivotable shaft;

frictional pivoting means for allowing the gravity-responsive means coarsely to align with gravity, wherein the frictional pivoting means are two opposing plates of a flexible material which are held apart at a predetermined distance by being rigidly attached to a case, and conical ends of the shaft are located in conical depressions in the two opposing plates;

vibration means for vibrating one or more elements of the pivoting means; and portable power means for powering the vibration means.

Claim 2 (original): A frictional pivot according to claim 1, wherein the length and frequency of occurrence of vibration produced by the vibrating means are controlled by manual switches or electronic timing circuitry.

Claims 3-5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (previously presented): A frictional pivot according to claim 1, wherein the vibration means is a low-voltage electric motor with an axially attached eccentric weight.

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Claim 7 (currently amended): A frictional pivot according to claim 1-5, wherein one or both of the two opposing plates are slugs of material with conical depressions and the slugs are axially movable relative to the pivotable shaft and held against the ends of the shaft by leaf or helical springs.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A laser referencing tool having a frictional pivot according to claim 1.

Claim 9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (previously presented): A laser referencing tool according to claim 8, further comprising an eccentrically weighted cylindrical housing frictionally attached about a common axis to another cylindrical housing, the second housing containing laser projecting means.

Claim 11 (original): A laser referencing tool according to claim 10, wherein a reference point indicating gravitational alignment is a mark on the circumference of the weighted housing, with other marks spaced at regular angular intervals on the circumference of the second housing indicating the angular displacement of the laser projecting means away from the gravitational vertical.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A laser referencing tool according to claim 10, wherein the vibrating means is within one or both of the cylindrical housing.